

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-02

INFO OCT-01 IO-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66602

DRAFTED BY: EUR/RPE:ADSENS

APPROVED BY: EUR/RPE:ACALBRECHT

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R 212025Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA 0000

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FOR AMBASSADOR WALKER

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 26946, SENT SECSTATE, INFO MOSCOW
OCTOBER 17:

QUOTE UNCLAS PARIS 26946

MOSCOW FOR ROBINSON

E'O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN ENRG

SUBJECT: PREPCON II - ROBINSON FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE

1. FOLLOWING IS OUR TRANSCRIPT OF UNDER SECRETARY
ROBINSON'S PRESS CONFERENCE AT CLOSING OF PREPCON II.
BEGIN QUOTE: LET ME JUST SAY THAT WE HAD THREE GOING-
ON FOUR DAYS OF VERY INTENSIVE PERSONAL CONTACT BETWEEN
THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AND
THE DEVELOPING NATIONS. I THINK THIS HAS BEEN A MOST
SUCCESSFUL MEETING. I PREDICTED ON MONDAY AT THE PRESS
BRIEFING THAT A FAILURE WAS INCONCEIVABLE TO ME. I AM
GLAD TO SAY THAT I WAS RIGHT, AND THAT MY NORMAL
OVER-OPTIMISM WAS JUSTIFIED THIS TIME. WE DID HAVE A
SUCCESSFUL MEETING NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF REACHING
AGREEMENT ON THE MANY COMPLEX ISSUES THAT WERE INVOLVED
BUT ALSO IT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN REINFORCING AND STRENGTH-
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ENING THE FRIENDSHIPS BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUAL HEADS OF

DELEGATIONS AND THEIR STAFF WHICH IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE BUILDING OF AN EFFECTIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE AND THAT WAS WHAT WE WERE ATTEMPTING TO DO AT THIS MEETING. IT WENT ON ONE DAY LONGER THAN I HAD ANTICIPATED AND DID SO BECAUSE WE REALLY ACCOMPLISHED A GREAT DEAL MORE THAN WE HAD SET OUT TO ACCOMPLISH AT THE OUTSET. WE FELT THAT THE QUESTIONS OF GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONS WOULD BE DEVELOPED THROUGH BILATERAL CONTACTS DURING THE TWO MONTHS BETWEEN THE PREPCON AND THE MINISTERIAL MEETING WHICH IS SET NOW FOR DECEMBER 16. BUT INSTEAD OF THAT WE FINALLY DECIDED THIS WAS THE TIME TO RESOLVE ALL OF THOSE QUESTIONS AND WE WERE SUCCESSFUL THROUGH OUR EFFORTS LATE LAST NIGHT AND EARLY THIS MORNING, AND AGAIN ALL DAY TODAY, TO BRING ALL OF THE DELEGATES INTO AN AGREEMENT ON THE GUIDELINES THAT WILL GOVERN THE DISCUSSIONS AND THE DELIBERATIONS THAT WILL TAKE PLACE

IN THE COMMISSIONS WHICH WILL BE SET UP AT THE MINISTERIAL MEETING IN DECEMBER. IT HAS BEEN A MOST SUCCESSFUL MEETING, AS I SAID, AND I AM VERY PLEASED WITH THE OUTCOME. I'LL BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.

Q: WHAT WAS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE USE OF THE WORD "MAY" FOR THE FINANCE COMMISSION WHEREAS IN THE FINAL DECLARATION OF THE CONFERENCE THE WORD "WILL" IS USED FOR THE GUIDELINES FOR THE OTHER COMMISSIONS?

A: NO, I DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS ANY. YOU HAVE A VERY SHARP EYE AND I CREDIT YOU FOR THAT. BUT THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANCE IN THAT DISTINCTION. THIS TEXT WAS DRAFTED BY DIFFERENT PEOPLE AND WORKING IN DIFFERENT ROOMS FACING DIFFERENT PRESSURES AND IT CAME OUT DIFFERENTLY BUT THERE IS NO SIGNIFICANCE IN THE DIFFERENCES IN THESE WORDPINGS.

Q: WHY DID YOU FIND IT NECESSARY TO ISSUE A SPECIAL AMERICAN DOCUMENT GIVING A LIST OF SUBJECTS THAT THE U.S. WANTED THE COMMISSIONS TO CONSIDER? WERE NOT THE GUIDELINES ENOUGH?

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A: THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE GUIDELINES BY ALL THE DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY FROM THE SEVEN DEVELOPING NATIONS, WAS DEPENDENT UPON OUR ACCEPTANCE OF THE SUBJECTS THAT THEY WANTED TO DISCUSS. AND WE WERE PLEASED TO DO THAT. BUT WE FELT THAT IN THE SPIRIT OF DIALOGUE THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT ALSO TO LIST THE SUBJECTS THAT WE THOUGHT SHOULD BE DISCUSSED. THERE

ARE NO BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN US. HOWEVER, THE PURPOSE OF THE DIALOGUE IS TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES, TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND THIS WAS MERELY AN EFFORT TO HAVE ON-THE-RECORD THOSE SUBJECTS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS. THE JAPANESE HAVE ENDORSED OUR LIST AND FEEL THAT THEY CAN SUPPORT THE QUESTIONS THAT WE HAVE LISTED. BUT IT WAS NOT INTENDED TO DO ANYTHING BUT TO DELINEATE THE NATURE OF THE DIALOGUE WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONS. IT WAS NOT IN ANY WAY CONFRONTATIONAL, NOR WAS IT INTENDED TO PLACE ONE GROUP AGAINST THE OTHER, BUT MERELY A LISTING OF THE VARIOUS SUBJECTS THAT WE THOUGHT DEMANDED ATTENTION IN THE INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONS.

Q: WHEN ARE YOU LEAVING FOR MOSCOW?

A: I AM LEAVING AT 12:10 TODAY...IF I CAN GET HOME AND GET A LITTLE SLEEP.

Q: (TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH) THE JAPANESE SUPPORTED YOUR LIST, DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE EEC DIDN'T SUPPORT IT?

A: IF I UNDERSTOOD THE QUESTION CORRECTLY, THE JAPANESE DID SUPPORT OUR LIST AND THE EEC DID NOT; WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THAT? THE LIST WAS PREPARED AT THE LAST MINUTE. IT WAS WORKED OUT WITH JAPAN. THE EEC WERE CLEARLY ALIGNED WITH THE QUESTIONS, BUT THEY HAVE A VERY SPECIAL PROBLEM IN THAT THEY HAVE TO REACH AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NINE COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES AND THERE JUST WAS NOT TIME TO REVIEW THAT AND TO COME UP WITH ANY FINAL ANSWERS. THERE WAS NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE IN THAT.

Q: WHAT SPECIFIC POWERS WILL THE VARIOUS COMMISSIONS

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HAVE AND WHAT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WILL THEY BE INVOLVED WITH?

A: WE ARE ENGAGED IN A MOST CHALLENGING EXPERIMENT. WE DON'T KNOW HOW EFFECTIVE THESE COMMISSIONS WILL BE; THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND THE EXTENT TO WHICH THEY CAN PRODUCE CONSTRUCTIVE AND POSITIVE CHANGE IN OUR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS WILL DEPEND UPON THE ATTITUDES AND THE INTENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS. IF THESE COMMISSIONS DEVELOP AS WE HOPE THEY WILL DEVELOP, THEY COULD HAVE A LONG-RANGE IMPACT ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS AND, IN MY JUDGMENT, COULD BECOME THE MOST IMPORTANT NEW INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION DEVELOPED SINCE THE UN. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF THESE COMMISSIONS SHOULD BE TO REVIEW THE PROBLEMS, TO DETERMINE WHAT ACTIONS ARE BEING

TAKEN IN EXISTING FORA, WHAT ADDITIONAL ACTIONS SHOULD BE TAKEN IN EXISTING FORA, AND WHAT ADDITIONAL ACTIONS MAY BE CALLED FOR WHICH WOULD NECESSITATE ACTIONS THROUGH THE COMMISSIONS OR THROUGH NEW INSTITUTIONS WHICH MIGHT BE DEVELOPED. I SEE IT PRIMARILY AS AN ENERGIZING CENTER FOR OTHER INSTITUTIONS TO DIRECT AND GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE AND SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT FAR MORE EFFECTIVELY IN EXISTING INSTITUTIONS.

Q: (INAUDIBLE BUT DEALT WITH RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COMMISSION AND IBRD AND IMF)

A: NO, I DON'T SEE ANY PROBLEM THERE. WE HAVE CLEARLY LIMITED THE FUNCTIONS OF THE FINANCIAL COMMISSION TO THOSE ACTIVITIES THAT DO NOT INFRINGE ON THE PROPER AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY OF THE IMF, THE IBRD. MY GUESS IS THAT WE MAY HAVE REPRESENTATIVES OF BOTH INSTITUTIONS AS OBSERVERS. BUT I DON'T SEE ANY PROBLEM THERE. I HAVE A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF THE LIMITATIONS OF THE FINANCIAL COMMISSION, WITH REGARD TO THE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE BEING CARRIED ON IN OTHER INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE IMF AND THE IBRD.

Q: DO YOU EXCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REFORM IN THE FINANCE COMMISSION?

A: WE HAVE NOT EXCLUDED ANY SUBJECT WHICH IS WITHIN UNCLASSIFIED

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THE CLEARLY DEFINED PARAMETER OF THE COMMISSIONS. THAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING THE GUIDELINES. AS FAR AS THE FINANCIAL COMMISSION IS CONCERNED, WE CLEARLY ELIMINATED RESPONSIBILITY IN THAT AREA OF MONETARY AFFAIRS WHICH WILL BE MORE PROPERLY CONDUCTED THROUGH THE IMF AND THE IBRD. BUT AS FAR AS THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, IF THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE REFERRING TO, CERTAINLY THERE ARE A NUMBER OF ITEMS IN THE LIST THAT HAD BEEN PROPOSED BY THE SEVEN WHICH ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF THE NIEO AND WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM. BUT BEING PREPARED TO DISCUSS THEM DOES NOT MEAN WE'LL ACCEPT THEM. AND OBVIOUSLY A DIALOGUE CAN ONLY TAKE PLACE EFFECTIVELY IF THERE ARE DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS, AND WE ARE GOING TO BE EXPLORING OUR DIFFERENCES, AND HOPEFULLY WILL BE RESOLVING THEM THROUGH THE KIND OF PRODUCTIVE, CONSTRUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS WE CONTEMPLATE IN THESE COMMISSIONS. END QUOTE. RUSH UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, PRESS CONFERENCES, TEXTS, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE250004
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPE:ADSENS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750367-0011
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751036/aaaabgbs.tel
Line Count: 219
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 OCT 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <03 FEB 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PREPCON II - ROBINSON FINAL PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, US, (ROBINSON, CHARLES W)
To: MTN GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006